

KDHE Statewide Full-Scale Exercise



Guidance for County Health Departments

The Outbreak Express 2020 exercise will be conducted April 15-17, 2020.

The KDHE full-scale exercise is being developed using:

PHEP, HPP and CRI requirements

Information from AAR/IPs

Input from trusted agents who can speak to the needs and special circumstances of the various sizes of health departments to keep the exercise manageable and realistic.

Leading up to the exercise will be scenario-related updates disseminated to stakeholders to simulate the progression of the flu becoming a pandemic situation.

Exercise Components:

- There will be no Ebola Virus Disease play at the local health department level. The Ebola component will only involve the State and the players relevant to transporting a patient.
- The exercise will include the Coalition Surge Test & Redundant Comms Drill.
- Per LHD workplan item #12:
PHEP and HCC sub-recipients must participate in the statewide exercise.
Plans/procedures for assisting at-risk populations must be tested in all exercises.
- Minimum capabilities included:
PHEP
Capability 2, Function 1
Capability 3, Functions 3 and 4
Capability 4, Function 5
Capability 10, Function 3
HPP Capabilities 1-4



The exercise will provide an opportunity to test items that were common gaps throughout the state based on 2018-19 AAR/IPs. Each local health department may customize the exercise for their jurisdiction based on previous gaps and plans and build on the exercise locally to further test capabilities as needed, if desired.

If your county wants to test more capabilities than those required in the work plan, please feel free to reach out to Jennifer Hermon, Exercise Coordinator, to discuss options for increased play opportunities before Wednesday, Dec 4, 2019. jennifer.hermon@ks.gov

Proposed plan of play:

		Estimated time	All county HDs	Only Flu POD participants
Day 1	*Limited Exercise Play	1-2 hours	X	
Day 2	Ex Play to support situational awareness, support neighboring counties	1-2 hours	X	
	Stand up Flu POD	Varies by county size		X
Day 3	*Limited Exercise Play	1-2 hours	X	

*No health department should expect to play for the entire workday for all 3 days of the exercise. Much of the play will be in a functional capacity.

Example: Communication from the state via email that may require a response by the end of the day to coordinate situational awareness.

CRI counties must stand up a Flu POD based on award requirements. Due to recent changes in the guidance, we have more to review before details can be planned and disseminated for the CRI counties.

HPP participation will largely be a support role as it would be in a real emergency. More info is forthcoming.

The other PHEP regions will be asked to stand up 1 Flu POD per region so that there is opportunity for all counties to coordinate amongst themselves and the State to estimate our collective capability to appropriately respond for the benefit of our citizens in relation to a Flu Pandemic situation with limited supplies.

This aims to provide participation for all without taxing the entire state, especially the counties with 1-2 staff members in the health department. More info to come regarding POD play.

What to do now:

- Communicate with external partners to gain participation. Your county Emergency Manager needs to be notified that there is an exercise going on for the health department. Their support could be needed in a small way in regard to a pandemic flu scenario. [Save the Date](#) flyer.
- Block calendars for expected players!
- Review your jurisdiction's plans & Kansas Response Plan Annex for Pan Flu.



Evaluators:

Those counties participating in Flu PODs - Work to identify potential exercise evaluators and any additional staff resources needed to stand up a POD. KDHE and the exercise contractor will provide webinar-based evaluator training in the future. At this time, we do not believe that the “non-POD” counties will need on-site evaluators. We are working to craft the scenario, injects and expected responses in a way that we can hopefully evaluate within the SimCell.

EEGs will be provided!

Exercise updates and related communications:

KDHE Preparedness Program will disseminate exercise related information as it is available and send to all stakeholders at the same time. If you receive other information about the exercise, please verify the info by visiting the [exercise web page](#). As updates are sent out, pdf versions will be available on the exercise web page for reference. Planning team members cannot share exercise information beyond what is shared to all stakeholders by KDHE Preparedness.

Final thoughts:

Please remember that we are in the beginning stages of planning. There is plenty of time for additions and [room for flexibility](#) as a scenario is not finalized until later in the planning process.

Counties of all sizes have representation on the planning team and they, along with the contractor and KDHE, are working to make the exercise valuable to all yet not over-tax any participating agency!

Keep in mind that while not ideal, a full-scale exercise at the beginning of a project period will give us a baseline from which to plan future training and exercises within the 5-year planning cycle.

Planning Team Meetings:

December 11, 2019 – Mid Term Planning
January 22, 2020 – Master Scenario Event List meeting
March 11, 2020 – Final planning meeting

Planning updates will be sent approximately a week after each planning team meeting.

Helpful Links:

[Exercise web page](#)

[Biological Incident Annex for Pandemic Influenza](#)

[Kansas Train](#)

[List of planning team members](#)